

Valley Women's Voice

June 1995

A Chronicle of Feminist Thought and Action

Battered Woman Jailed for Defending Herself and Children — 14 year old daughter makes plea for help

The Valley Women's Voice did not author or solicit the following letter, but in solidarity with the woman involved we have agreed to print it.

My name is Andrea Azhocar and I am fourteen years old. I am also writing this letter on behalf of my sister Antoinette, who is 13; my brother Charles, 10; and my baby sister Adriana, who is four years old. We are hoping and praying for a miracle and believe that you can help make our dream come true, along with our prayers.

We are children who lived in a domestic violence situation and were victims just like our mother; we suffered pain and terror too. We moved five times within three years. When our mother ended her relationship with the abuser, the nightmare began...not only for our mother but for all of us. At that time we were six, five, and two years old and we remember the incidents so clearly. This was our life until we were eleven, ten, and six-and-a-half years old.

We can remember how frightened we were during this time. We would all sleep together in one bed with our mother. She would sleep with the telephone on her chest in case the abuser broke in during the night and we needed help. We would awaken to find the phone tangled up in the covers. It's called "Will I survive to call for help?"

The abuser stalked us as if we were animals who could never flee their predator, and no one could help us. We lived in constant fear. He broke into our home frequently and not only beat up

our mother, but wrecked our home as well—furniture, walls, windows, and personal belongings—and destroyed our property. Our mother was threatened with a gun over and over again. Our grandmother helped move us those five times in three years and because of that, she became one of his victims too. She tried to help us find a safe haven, but he found us every time.

One time the abuser broke into our condo, beat up our mother, and broke everything in the house. Then he smashed his car into the condo, knocking it off the foundation. Another time he beat my mother, cutting her face. We can remember jumping out of the tub in fright, seeing her dripping with blood.

Every time he got away with it; even when he was jailed, the charges were dropped. There are police reports of every incident. The abuser was so violent that the damages to our home ran up to \$2,400; this did not include our furniture or belongings.

We lived our lives moving; this meant never being able to stay at one school, always changing schools and leaving friends. We lived at police stations watching my mother get photographed from the beatings. My mother always went to the police for help.

The abuser was shot in the legs and is not dead. He is not handicapped, nor was he seriously injured. In fact, he was well enough to come to court and laugh out loud when my mother was sentenced to twenty-five years to life in prison.

During my mother's trial, the jury was not allowed to hear or know about the abuse she and

we had suffered. The judge said that if the jury were to know about the things that the abuser did to my mother, they would be prejudiced against him and it would prove that the system failed my mother when she sought help. The police reports were not allowed at her trial.

On May 8, 1994, our mother was resentenced to life with the

BATTERED...continued on pg 3

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. Send two letters supporting our mother's release to:

BOARD OF PRISON TERMS

James W. Nielsen, Chairman
428 J Street, 6th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814-2329
RE: Theresa Roxanne Cruz #40058, Frontera Women's Prison

GOVERNOR PETE WILSON

State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
RE: Theresa Roxanne Cruz #40058, Frontera Women's Prison

2. Donate stamps for this campaign by her children. You can send your donations and correspondence to:

Andrea Azhocar
3950 Debbyann Place
San Diego, CA 92154

3. If you wish to correspond with our mother, you may write her at:

Theresa Roxanne Cruz #40058
Miller A 56/Up
Frontera, CA 91720

photo by Diana Davies



Kate Moran and Mary

Kate, we love you!

Kate Moran is leaving the Pioneer Valley and will begin a new life in Chicago. Kate — who knows everybody — will be greatly missed. We at the Valley Women's Voice want to say thank you for all the fine work on the paper and toward the greater feminist effort.

Inside...

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and of course, Calendar, Announcements, Herbs for Women's Health and Dykes to Watch Out For...

Policy Statement

The *Valley Women's Voice*, a monthly feminist newsjournal, welcomes women's writings, poetry, graphics, and photography that reflect a feminist commitment to the empowerment of all women. The *Voice* provides a forum for women to share challenging and controversial ideas. We aim to communicate and strengthen bonds between women by making them visible in our pages.

The *Valley Women's Voice* is produced on a collective, consensus, volunteer basis by a group of feminists. We do not agree with all opinions expressed in the *Voice* by individual authors, but we accept responsibility for choosing to print everything in the paper.

Announcements

Issues of the *Valley Women's Voice* from September 1994 to the present are available on audio cassette.

Subscriptions to the *Valley Women's Voice* are free to women prisoners.

The Voice Collective

Beth Roberts - captain of transportation

Kate Moran - foreign correspondent

Michelle DePesa - stunt typist

Kailen Bent - foreign correspondent

Karen Scott - foreign correspondent

Wendy Beck - tracking and kerning

Glenna Wong - foreign correspondent

Tam Ward - head consultant

Nancy O'Neill - art director

Andrea Alexander - chairperson of peace and quiet

Aisha Gabriel - color coordinator

Plus:

Kady, Mary, Arianna and Crystal, distribution, and Heidi Creamer, taping project

Subscriptions to the
Valley Women's Voice
are available for \$9.00
a year.

Call For Submissions

The July/August issue of the *Voice* is our annual literary issue. Please send feminist poetry, short essays, opinion pieces. Feminist = actively working to eradicate sex discrimination in your own life and that of others.

Send stuff to **The Valley Women's Voice**, 321 Student Union Building, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003

Contribution Calendar & Guidelines Announcements Listings

The *Valley Women's Voice* welcomes women's letters, essays, narratives, interviews, newsbriefs, poems, short stories, cartoons, graphics, and photographs. Written submissions should be 3 to 5 pages typed, *double spaced*. Your name, address, and phone number must be enclosed with all materials so that we may verify submissions and/or contact you to discuss any necessary editorial changes. A short biographical statement is also appreciated. An author who does not wish her name to be printed should indicate this when submitting items. Please enclose a SASE if you would like materials returned to you. Submissions typed on disk are greatly appreciated. We use Microsoft Word 4.0, and our computer accepts double density disks, *not* high density. You may fax articles or calendar/announcement listings to us at (413)545-4751 (please clearly indicate VWV on each page). The decision to print materials is made collectively, and all major editorial changes are made in conjunction with the author. However, we reserve the right to make minor editorial corrections to submissions for purposes of clarity and space constraints.

Send submissions to: *Valley Women's Voice*, 321 Student Union Building, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003. If you have ideas for future articles, or are not sure how your particular interests and talents may add to the paper, call us and let's discuss the possibilities. Our number is (413)545-2436.

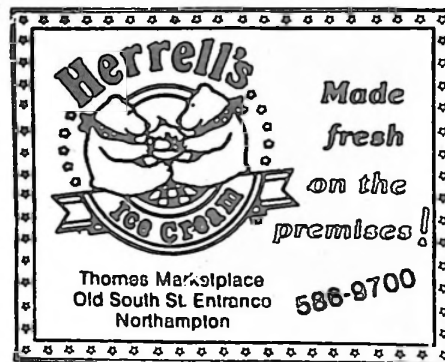
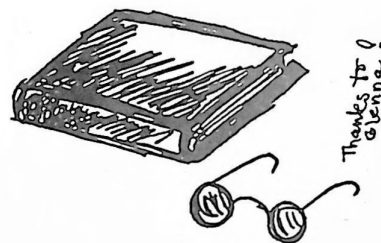
The *Valley Women's Voice* would like to print announcements and publicize events of interest to women. Listings are free and should be kept to 5 lines in length. (Items will be edited to fit space constraints.) Announcements for non-profit organizations will be given preference and additional space when it is available.

Announcements and listings must reach us by the 15th of the month to be included in the next month's issue. Campus Mail often adds 1-5 days to the time it takes your flyer to reach us. To confirm our receipt of your announcement, or to make arrangements to drop off a last minute item, please call us at 413-545-2436. The best way to insure that your event is advertised in the VWV is to purchase a display ad and we ask organizations producing feminist events to consider supporting the *Valley Women's Voice* in this manner.

We request that Calendar listings provide the following information: name, date, time, and location of the event; cost of attending the event (sliding scale? work exchange?); the sponsor of the event and recipient of proceeds, if any; a statement about accessibility for disabled women (wheelchair accessible? ASL interpreted?); a phone number where inquiries may be directed.

Individuals and organizations may request that a photograph be printed along with a Calendar listing. Black-and-white photographs are preferred. Due to space constraints, we may not be able to accept all photographs for publication, and preference will be given to non-profit organizations.

The *Valley Women's Voice* Collective needs new members to help selling ads, answering phones, editing, reporting, proofreading and layout. We also need women who could volunteer 2-3 hours at the beginning of each month to distribute the papers. And more than anything, we need women to send us reports on what is happening locally and around the world, photos, graphics, and clippings for newsbriefs. The more you send us, the more interesting the paper will be!



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Sex Crimes

by Sally Bellerose, Orogeny Press
a poetry chapbook
reviewed by Aisha Gabriel

For all the positive potential for pleasure implied by the meaningful word sex there's plenty of trouble to be had, too, whenever a writer dares to go near the subject. Bellerose decided to jump in, jump into the mundane world using sex as vehicle to talk about women's lives. Yes, I said "mundane world" as in everyday. Were you expecting sex as in "exciting," "sensational," or "erotic"? Well, *Sex Crimes* has some of that stuff, too. But it's to the poet's credit, that the subject stays strongly rooted in what women really do with their lives---in these poems we, women, cook, care for children, struggle with too busy schedules, love, attempt to deal with relatives, we fend off sexual attackers only to face a daily potential for further assault.

What better metaphor for society's intruding, possessing hands on women's lives? The "excitement" in this collection of nine well-crafted poems comes from Bellerose's theme throughout. Do you know the often-quoted rape victim cry "they may take my body but they can't have me"? The world manages to take so damn much from women, how is it possible to keep the soul alive? And if you think about it, sex is always being sold to us through the various media or through

relentless jokes or through jaded, crusty storytelling as all encompassing, all possessing. Is it ever possible to step free of society's definitions/interpretations of sex and being sexual in our individual lives? Bellerose: "The question is: At what point are you *not* acting on past conditioning." It's the major difference between self-determination and a life of reactions with little choice. And yet the porn worker in "Stopping at a Bar on Bourbon Street" keeps a gleam in her eye: *Her eyes are laughing. They see I admire hard work. She smiles.*

I want to tell her I'm a nurse, I work hard too. I want to ask her how to keep my eyes alive, how to make them speak to the people my body is moving for, but she's already gone.

Women use their bodies and their minds to stay alive, to survive. But Sally Bellerose goes a little further and dares to insist that there is something to a woman that can't be possessed by others. The porn worker's lively eyes communicate to her sister/woman. They both know what's real and what isn't. The poem, "Shuttlewise," punches out the message: "She won't be got."

Throughout her poems we, women, are seen as capable and creatively negotiating the box that society defines for each of us. Read my favorite of the nine, "Married Ladies Have Sex in the Bathroom." This humorously

engaging title practices economy of language as only poetry can sometimes. "Married ladies" speaks to a social role manifested through an amorphous set of expectations society holds for us, women. And we do the roles and we attempt to meet the expectations put upon us. But the creative spin to the poet's view of women is this insistent belief in a special womyn-specific characteristic. It's what allows us to truly survive. And as the poem's scenario exemplifies we sometimes are able to make use of those very expectations as a mask as we go about our business, doing whatever truly nurtures us. We, women, are soulful. And when it comes to survival, we're darn clever, too.

Readers will not overlook Bellerose's humor. Her offbeat wit will come looking for you even when the poet is doing tough issues like sexual assault ("American Beauty") or meeting the less-than-embracing relatives of your same-sex partner ("Eating with the In-Laws"). In "American Beauty" a woman succeeds in defending herself and fleeing from a sexual attacker. The attacker attempts to, at the very least, defile Beauty. I was upset by the simple, starkly-drawn scene and yet I found myself smiling. Did I smile because she tagged her attacker? In both poems, humor comes dressed in shades of irony bringing the reader closer to the poet's message. It's one of the poet's best talents to provoke seemingly contradictory emotional responses in the reader. "Married Ladies..." uses situational humor that has a natural ease:

*We did it with phones
ringing,
kids screaming,
dogs barking,
tubs overflowing,
and dinner burning in the
pot.*

On the other hand, Bellerose shows that she can handle on-the-beat, laugh aloud humor in "Mama Was Not" and "Lickimerrick."

Look to hard-working language in *Sex Crimes*. For instance, spend some time with that title. And, for another, the chapbook ends with "Fingerwine": cleverly "erotic," bathed in color, "sensational." Her language choices are polished (hard work in evidence) and, of course, careful and yet deceptively casual. So much so you'll feel that you've just had a delightful conversation with the poet. And, perhaps, that's a valid idea since all art is alive and in the moment by virtue of its audience's reactions.

Reading Bellerose poetry is much like attending performance art. The reader isn't allowed to sit passively. You become a participant in the art and you're going to be amazed, maybe alarmed, and definitely amused. Of course, her poems won't be for everyone; one poem fits all would not be Sally Bellerose's style. And, besides, as with sexual preferences, people have a wide range of desires reading poetry:

*We are people
with different tastes,
but we all eat. ("Eating with
the In-Laws")*

Sex Crimes is a pleasurable read and I believe that it will find a solid audience in and outside of the lesbian community. Readers are sure "to enjoy a good suck on a (very tasty, literary) spoon." □

BATTERED... cont'd from pg 1

possibility of parole in seven years. When our mother went away to prison, our ages were eleven, ten seven, and four months old. The pain was — and is— beyond measure. Our mother is the only thing we have. We live our lives surrounded by a prison, and we have stood by her faithfully.

I am an A student in scholarship and citizenship and am on the junior varsity basketball team at Montgomery High School. I am also the oldest of us four children. There isn't a moment in my life when my mother isn't at the forefront of my memory. Many times I just lay and cry and feel like giving up. But when I look down at my sisters and brother and see that they are looking up to me for the answers, I cry even more. I realize I can't give up and must continue praying and seeking Him for this miracle. I want the best for them and I know that no one in the world can love them like my mother, for we experienced. I truly believe we deserve a chance. My goal is to see my mother free to put ribbons on my baby sister and walk her to school as she did me.

Does it sound like justice to you that we are deprived of our mother's love and care when we need her so badly and love her so much?

Does anything that has happened to our family sound like justice to you? Is it fair that when the system finally took action, it was our mother who paid along with her children?

At one time my mother cried out for help and the system failed her. Now we are desperately crying out to you to help bring our mother home to her four children who have been orphaned by Domestic Violence. Please don't forget us as everyone else has!

We deserve a chance, our mother deserves a chance! Help us be together again. We are crying out to you to become a part of our family and help in a major letter writing campaign for our mother's release.

Please help free us from this prison. Please don't forget us or fail us as everyone else has. Please stay in unity with us children for our mother's release.

Help us fight this battle, for the burden is too heavy for us and we are crying out for your help!

God bless you.

A READING BY SALLY BELLEROSE

Recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Award

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PUBLICATION OF:

**SEX
CRIMES**

by Sally Bellerose

at the
NORTHAMPTON
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

SUMMER SOLSTICE
WED., JUNE 21
7:00 pm

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Donation: \$3-\$5

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Herbs for Women's Health

{Note: the law requires this disclaimer. This column is meant for informational purposes only, and is not intended to replace the advice of a medical practitioner. Should you use this information without the approval of your physician, you are prescribing for yourself, which (at time of press) is still your constitutional right, but the author and Valley Women's Voice collective can assume no responsibility.}

Spring is in the air (at last!) and so in the spirit of spring cleaning, I thought I would talk this month about blood cleansing. "Blood cleansing" is a general term that refers to removing stored toxins from the body by stimulating the various organs of elimination: kidneys, liver, lungs, skin and intestines. Modern life provides ample opportunities for us to accumulate toxins in our organs, tissues, and cells. Cigarette smoking, alcohol and drug use, air pollution, water pollution, exposure to chemicals in the workplace, and pesticides in our food are only a partial list of ways in which we take in toxins every day. The body must work hard to eliminate these pollutants, a job which can be made more difficult by inadequate exercise and/or an unbalanced diet.

Herbalists and naturopaths believe that many illnesses are caused, at least in part, by these accumulated toxins. Virtually anyone can benefit from periodic use of blood purifying methods; however, it is particularly recommended for certain conditions. Skin problems, recurring infections, bad breath, body odor, sinus problems, yeast overgrowth, herpes, bladder infections, constipation and fatigue can all indicate a need for a blood cleansing program. Such a program can also be of significant benefit to people with more serious illnesses such as cancer, and should be undertaken with the supervision of a knowledgeable health practitioner.

The process of blood purifying usually begins with a short (three day) fruit or vegetable juice fast. (Note: diabetics and hypoglycemics should never fast without the supervision of a physician.) A juice fast is not technically a fast at all, since nutrients are being taken in, and therefore the unpleasant feelings of hunger and weakness which can accompany fasting are minimal during a juice fast. Daily enemas during the fast are useful to help remove the released toxins as quickly as possible, and to prevent constipation. For a general blood cleansing program, use one of the red juices (cranberry, cherry, beet, grape) supplemented with herbal teas (below). Drinking 6 to 8 glasses of water daily is always important for optimal health, and is especially necessary while fasting. If you want to focus your cleanse on the kidneys or skin, good juices to use include celery, cucumber, beet, and dandelion. The juice of a lemon in a glass of water also makes an excellent kidney purifying drink. In cases of heavy metal exposure, alcohol and drug detoxification, or chronic bowel problems, liver cleansing is primary. Important juices for the liver include apple, carrot, beet, asparagus, and dandelion. During a juice fast, drink 16-24 ounces of fresh juice throughout each day, in addition to herb teas and plenty of water. Taking a natural bulking fiber supplement daily can also help to speed elimination. If you are not so lucky as to own your own juicer, don't despair, as we are fortunate to live in an area where juice bars are not unheard of. The Raw Carrot, Bread and Circus, and even Herrel's ice cream shop all serve fresh juice, and there may be other places in the Valley which do as well.

When breaking a fast, it is important to do so gradually, to avoid shocking the system and undoing all the good you've just done. Start with a meal of raw foods, then slowly add additional whole foods back into your diet, continuing to avoid sugar, caffeine, alcohol, refined foods, meat, and cigarettes for as long as possible (preferably for good!).

A final note on fasting: A juice fast undertaken in a supportive, peaceful environment can be a very pleasant time of introspection and relaxation. It is a good time to read inspiring books, keep a journal, meditate, and rest. Attempting to maintain a hectic schedule while fasting is usually frustrating and stressful - and stress is not conducive to good health! It is well worth it to take three days off from the outside world to nurture yourself in this way.

There are many herbs which support the body in eliminating toxins, which can be used in conjunction with a juice fast, or on their own. Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and burdock root (*Arctium lappa*) together are an effective combination for blood cleansing in general. Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinalis*) and nettles (*Urtica dioica*) are both excellent for the kidneys. Dandelion is also an effective liver purifying herb, and grows copiously in this area. Try gathering the young greens from an unpolluted area to use raw in salads, or steam them and eat like spinach. Milk thistle seed (*Carduus marianus*) is the primary herb for liver detoxifying and healing. Other important herbs which can be included in a blood cleansing program include:

Dykes To Watch Out For

by Alison Bechdel



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Parsley (*Petroselinum sativa*) works on the kidneys, liver and spleen. Chamomile (*Matricaria chamomilla*) stimulates the liver, spleen, and digestion.

Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) is an excellent general tonic, which nourishes the entire system and increases the effectiveness of other herbs.

Yellow Dock (*Rumex crispus*) stimulates the liver and digestion.

Senna (*Cassia marilandica*) is an effective herbal laxative. This herb is best taken in combination with other gentler herbs, as it can be harsh on its own.

You can create your own formula from these herbs, depending on what body systems you want to focus on. A basic formula might be: One part each red clover, burdock, dandelion, and alfalfa, two parts chamomile. Steep one tablespoon dried herbs in one cup of boiling water for 15 minutes, strain, and sweeten with a touch of honey if desired. Drink three cups per day during the blood cleansing program, and one cup per day for the following two or three weeks.

In addition to juices and herbs, there are other ways to stimulate your body's eliminative functions. Diane Stein suggests a bath using a cup of baking soda and a cup of sea salt to draw out toxins from the pores. Make the water as hot as you can enjoy it, and soak for 25 minutes. Go to bed for an hour or two after the bath to finish sweating off toxins. (Do this no more often than once every 10 days.) A full foot massage stimulates acupressure points for all body systems and helps to promote balanced functioning. It also feels great!

A blood cleansing program will be most effective if it is followed by certain lifestyle changes: quitting smoking, limiting (or eliminating) consumption of alcohol, caffeine, drugs, sugar, meat, and dairy, and avoiding (as much as possible) exposure to pollutants, pesticides, and other chemicals. Getting sufficient sleep and exercise are also crucial to maintaining the eliminative functions of the body. A blood cleansing program can help in resolving many chronic ailments, and can be used in conjunction with other traditional or alternative treatments. For people lucky enough not to have any major health complaints, a blood cleansing program is an excellent first step towards adopting a healthier lifestyle which will prevent illness in the future. And, it will make you feel good.

Sources:

Lee, William H. *The Book of Raw Fruit and Vegetable Juices and Drinks*.
Lust, John. *The Herb Book*.
Potts, Billie. *Witches Heal*.
Stein, Diane. *The Natural Remedy Book for Women*.

Ida B. Wells: a woman of conviction who changed America...

Every American should know about Ida B. Wells, a single individual who did so much against great odds to ensure a better life for everyone. Thanks and appreciation to Joella Costella, actress, who portrayed Ms. Wells in her thesis presentation of "Miss Ida B. Wells" at Smith College and in Boston. Great thanks to Ms. Costello and to the playwright, Ms. Endisha M. Hollands ("Miss Ida B. Wells"), for bringing the life and accomplishments of a truly great woman to our attention.

Miss Ida B. Wells: A Woman Who Refused To Be Quiet

by Jo Ella Costella, edited by VWV staff

Alfreda M. Barnett Duster eloquently summed up her mother's life by saying: "The most remarkable thing about Ida B. Wells-Barnett is not that she fought lynching and other forms of barbarism. It is rather that she fought a lonely and almost single-handed fight, with the single-mindedness of a crusader, long before men or women of any race entered the arena; and the measure of success she achieved goes far beyond the credit she has been given in the history of the country."

On March 25, 1931, Ida B. Wells-Barnett died, yet the country took little note of her death. As others became famous for leading the battle for Civil Rights, Ida Well's activity in the movement gradually became lost to the collective memory of the race and nation. The contributions of Ida B. Wells have been inappropriately understated in the history text books. As a result, many people, including African Americans do not know of her achievements for the betterment of her country and the world. During the last year of her life, she brooded over the fact that the founder of the Association for the Study of Negro

Life and History had not recognized her anti-lynching effort in his highly regarded and much used volume *The Negro in Our History*.

Ida B. Wells was a forceful 19th century race leader, schoolteacher, journalist, feminist, wife, and mother. Her personal sense of integrity and justice carried her into a crusade against racism, sexism and all other forms of injustices. She refused to give up or give in when faced with insurmountable odds. As a Race woman dedicated to her people, she risked her life for her principles. Noted Black historian John Hope Franklin says of Wells, "her zeal and energy was matched by her uncompromising and unequivocal stand for every cause she espoused. She criticized all those who stood in the way of real progress-whether they were the White people of the South, the White Northern Liberals or members of her own race and sex. She led a campaign against the barbarous lynchings of Blacks. Through investigative journalism, Ida B. Wells used statistics and personal interviews to prove that Whites invented a rape mythology to justify these murders. She took the facts that she had collected to England. As a result of her work, there was a national and international outcry which put economic, political, and moral pressure against the lynchings. She worked for the betterment of the Black community, and she was active in a number of clubs and organizations. She was a member of the Anti-Lynching Committee, National Association of Colored Women Clubs, National Equal Rights League, Negro Fellowship League, Alpha Suffrage Club; and was one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.



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Chronology of the Life of Miss Ida B. Wells

July 16, 1862 Ida Belle Wells was born a slave in Holly Springs, Mississippi to slaveparents, Jim and Elizabeth Wells.

1878 Yellow Fever Epidemic decimates Holly Springs, killing both her parents and a sibling. She supports her brothers and sisters by teaching school.

1883-84 She moves to Memphis, Tennessee where she teaches, joins a lyceum and takes elocution courses.

She files suit against the C.O.&S Railroad after being ejected because she refused to sit in a smokers (lower class) section.

1884-91 Writes for black newspapers across the country. Is co-ownder of the Memphis *Free Speech & Headlight* Writes an article cricizing the schools and is fired.

1892 Three of Memphis' leading Colored businessmen are lynched. Tom Moss was one of her dear friends. Wells begins her anti-lynching crusade. Away on a business trip, Memphis whites destroy her press and puts a price on her head. Exiled, she moves to New York.

1893-95 Takes anti-lynching crusade to a national and international audience.

1895-1909 Marries Ferdinand Barnett, lawyer and owner of Chicago's first Negro newspaper, *The Conservator*. She is a leader in the Negro club movement. She gives birth to four children: Charles, 1896, Herman, 1897, Ida, 1901; and Alfreda, 1904. Continues her crusade against lynchings.

1910-17 Starts Negro Fellowship League. Organizes the Alpha Suffrage jClub for Black women to vote. Participates in the women's suffrage movement.

1918-27 Anti-Black riots follow WWI. Wells goes to East St. Louis and to Arkansas to investigate and report on riots.. She lectures and presides at meetings; protests discrimination nationally and locally.

1928 Wells begins to write her autobiography.

1928-30 Onset of the Depression, she turns her concerns to unemployment. She runs for State Senate in Chicago, loses to incumbent.

March 25, 1931 Ida B. Wells Barnett dies of uremia in a hospital in Chicago.

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Survivor's Circle is a space for women survivors of child abuse (sexual, emotional, physical) to share their thoughts, poetry, stories, resources, etc. If you know of a conference, workshop, or other event of special interest to survivors please let us know! We welcome submissions of all sorts. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions please feel free to contact the Voice at (413) 545-2436.

Derailment Immemorial

by Tammaira J. Ward

Innocence is a term applied to survivors of abuse quite frequently. I question the applicability of this term when it cannot fully describe the experience. I think the application of this term to abuse derails the real issues. It takes us down the track of sympathy without conveying any real understanding. The term innocence also broadens the track of exploration until the experience of abuse is reduced to fit everyone's view. Surely your definition of innocence will differ from my definition of innocence.

At this juncture in my life I have come to accept that my thoughts are a product of experiential knowledge. Innocence is not part of my experiential knowledge and holds no descriptive value that can be utilized in explaining my past. Even the phrase loss of innocence is meaningless to me. In essence I cannot miss an innocence I have never felt. I will not bemoan a loss that only people outside my experience see. I often think people apply this term to abuse because it allows them to say "That's horrible" without facing the real horrors.

I feel the real horror lies within the knowledge abuse plants deep within one's soul. Very early on, my experience with sexual abuse set me apart from my peers. I became a different person, immemorial. In essence I no longer existed in the world of my peers. I did not feel a loss of innocence. I did feel a loss of communication creeping into my every tissue. I kept my body solid against letting my peers know my past. Of course, in the process, I lost the present. I learned to control my every breath and I suppose I lost much freedom. In the midst of the loss I gained.

I learned to count solely on myself. I became a solid individual that found comfort from swamps as well as lakes. I learned the art of adaptation and it has served me well. I also learned the art of existing as a changing woman. I embrace change because I want to explore many of

life's labyrinth's. I suppose I'm a little incorrigible. I hike the trails of my labyrinth in the downpours because I know the sun is but a commodity to enjoy from the reference point of rain.

I KNOW WHAT I WANT, a memory. ... Author UNKNOWN(?)

I was thirteen years old. Welcome to adolescence. I am wearing a black leotard, pink shorts, and brown sandals. My face is made up a little and my hair styled. I lean over to look at a plant, sensing the attention of the three boys in the room. I like it, all this attention, all this a-tension over me and my body. It's more attention than I'm used to. I am soaking it in, basking in it. Juan holds my arms down with me on his lap and John puts his hands down the top of my leotard and it feels kind of nice and I want him to continue playing this game. At the same time I want him to stop. What do I want? I begin to resent being held down and ask Juan to let me go but he holds tight. I start to feel defensive about his not letting go, after all this is all just a game, right?

My easy smile from before is changing to an expression of agitation. I can't believe this is happening. Then Juan pulls me down on the couch and I can't believe this is happening. John is on top of me, shoving his dick in my face and I'm not enjoying this anymore it's all happening very fast. If only John would just stop. I demand that he do so but he doesn't. I laugh very nervously. Then I'm not laughing anymore, I am screaming, writhing and kicking as wildly as I can and now John is laughing but suddenly he screams "mother fucker!" and there is a flow of blood from his nose. He jumps off me and runs into the bathroom warning that he is going to kill me. He comes back, lunging for me and his two accomplices hold him back, one flanking each arm. I grab my sandals and scream at him through a tear streaked face that I wish I had done more to him than kicked him in the nose and I run out of the apartment into the rain. I don't stop running until I am a couple blocks away. He didn't take me seriously, didn't listen to me As if I was just a stupid teasing girl who didn't know what she wanted, who couldn't admit what she wanted. But I knew damn well what I wanted, and it was for him to STOP!!!!



The Internet Connection
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This monthly column on the Internet is written by Victoria A. White, owner of the Internet Connection in Amherst. The Internet Connection provides affordable Internet training and consulting; Internet installations and access; information gathering with document delivery; and an Internet seminar series.

Communication on the Internet

by Victoria A. White, Owner of The Internet Connection in Amherst, MA

Last month's column provided an introduction to the Internet. This month's column begins discussion on Internet services available and specific discussion of these services as they relate to feminist issues.

We have defined the Internet conceptually as rivers and streams of information flowing together. These rivers, also known as Internet services include email (electronic mail), Gopher, FTP, USENET, Telnet, IRC, and the World Wide Web (WWW).

The communications river, or Internet service of electronic mail is this month's topic. It is quicker, cheaper and more convenient than traditional mail sent through the postal service, which is now often termed "snail mail". Email is the primary communications mechanism among members of the Internet community and is rapidly becoming a dominant form of communication in business. One's identity on the Internet is defined by their email address, which provides many ethical issues for consideration.

When sending email, it is important to remember that verbal intonation and emotions need to be expressed using punctuation or other means, such as comments. One should also consider the physical presentation of the message to the reader, as a neatly formatted note will generally be received more positively than a misspelled hodgepodge.

While many Internet services may be accessed by email; including Gopher searches, FTP transfers, newsgroups and generation of faxes, an extremely popular application of email is subscribing to mailing lists.

Mailing lists are simply that, lists of mailing addresses that mail is sent to. This method of mail generation becomes an explosion as a single message is distributed to all the members on the mailing list. There are now thousands of list, covering any possible topic.

Mailing lists that may interest Valley Women's Voice readers include discussion on topics of feminism, women's studies, lesbian and bisexual concerns and issues of interest to women. Examples would include wmst-l, a list for general discussion on women's issues; wmn-hlth for discussion on women's health issues; femisa for members of the Feminism branch of the International Studies Association; and educom-w for women using technology in the educational arena. More examples include: FIST, the Feminism in Science and Technology discussion; femsuprem to discuss the supremacy of women; feminist-theology; geogfem for feminist and gender issues in geography; and more.

Lesbian lists are extremely popular on the Internet, the most well known example is the sappho list with over 600 subscribers and nearly 100 postings per day. Smaller lesbian mailing lists include: lesac for lesbian academics; moms for lesbian moms; living for lesbians with disabilities; lis for lesbians in science; amazons; and others. These lists typically require personal verification by the list owner, or moderator, before participation in discussion.

Bisexual lists include bisexu-l to discuss the topic; biact-l for bisexual activists; and bifem-l for bisexual women. Transgender issues are discussed in the transgen list, which includes transsexual/transgender/transvestite concerns. Lists for women working on the Internet are also available. For example, the author participates in discussion on vs-online, Virtual Sisterhood through Internet technology; and spiderwoman, for women designing and authoring WWW pages.

To ask questions for this column please contact the Internet Connection by calling (413)549-INET, writing PO Box 2727, Amherst, MA 01004, faxing (413)665-0453 or electronic mail at inetcon@shaysnet.com.

The Internet Connection will hold two seminars in June at the Jones Library in Amherst, which is handicapped accessible. June 1 will feature The Internet for Small Businesses and June 8 will cover Exploring the World Wide Web. The cost for each seminar is \$15. To preregister call (413)549-INET. □



We Can Do It: Helping our Nicaraguan Sisters

by Liz Costaldo

Feminist Aid to Central America comprises a group of women dedicated to raising money for women's empowerment groups in Central America. Rosa Argentina, a native Nicaraguan community activist, attended a Feminist Aid educational potluck this past March. Discussions centered around living conditions in Managua. Managua has always been a poor city, but after the flooding of Lake Managua in the 1970's it became a waste dumping ground: municipal trash is deposited, among other places, in Agua Lingua, putting that community's children—an estimated 13,000—at risk for a variety of health problems. Single mothers struggle with few resources and teen-age pregnancies are common. Both conditions necessarily mean perpetual impoverishment for large numbers of women and children. Rosa's work has been centered around these issues.

Families in Agua Lingua make their living as street vendors of materials found at one dump. Parents and children collect copper, aluminum, shoes, and anything else they can try to resell. These people are forced to live from what other people throw out since they have no other resources at this time. Each meal they receive depends on what other people have discarded. Children can't even go to school, since their labor is imperative to the survival of their families.

The community-based organizations that Rosa Argentina works through are currently trying to create work alternatives for families and children. They are trying to provide education for children while teaching parents the importance of education. Rosa is also attempting to educate the larger community and the government about the existing problems.

Valley Women's Voice/June 1995 7

In the past year, these groups have begun to re-evaluate their strategies. They're starting to deal with gender issues relevant to the lives of women and single mothers. Since sending their children to school results in a loss of work and money to the family, the mothers tend not to send them, which just perpetuates the cycle of poverty to the next generation. Organizations are now trying to get funding to supply mothers with both work skills and the materials they will need to utilize these skills. For example, many women are skilled in sewing. However, these skills are useless without sewing machines. If women in Managua could earn a more adequate income by accessing a sewing machine, then they could afford perhaps the next generation of people in Managua will not be victims of poverty.

The government in power, formerly the Sandinistas, was unable to supply adequate aid to the people of Managua. However, their efforts helped many impoverished people in Nicaragua. They distributed some food and clothing, but they didn't provide long-term solutions to the problems that the poorest unemployed sector of the population experience. These facts rendered community based organizations essential to the war against poverty and suffering in Managua. And given that Sandinistan politics supported more free-thinking, radical ideas, and a participatory democracy, these community organizations were encouraged.

My message is that every bit of support helps. We, as Americans, have tremendous power to help change the systems of immobilization abroad. Feminist Aid to Central America funded several community organizations in Nicaragua last year; five women, surely, had an impact on poor people's lives—you can, too.

Please note that a local organization doing solidarity work is ARISE in Springfield, MA. Last year, ARISE sent one of their members on a work brigade to Matagalpa to help women construct their own housing. For information about ARISE and about what you can do to help, call Ann Ferguson at (413) 367-2310. □



Liz Miller, coordinator of ICADS (center) with Rosa Argentina (right)

They'll Call It Suicide

by Diane Webster

Spin the cylinder
and squeeze the trigger.
Blow away Timmy Benson
for breaking my set
of 64 spectacular crayons —
gold, silver, flesh
splayed
like amputated legs.
Squeeze the trigger.
Have the last laugh
on Counselor Henning who said
it would be all right,
all right, all right...
Squeeze the trigger
and swallow my medicine
like Mother always said
it was for my own
good.



Voices At Peace

by Diane Webster

Voices rest in peace;
the bathroom mirror fogs
like a dream just out of remembrance
as I step into the tub.
My foot screams for air
but burns only a minute
as the other joins it,
as my body follows,
white, pink, red
shrieking, soothing, sweating.
The blade hurts less
than voices of ought-to's
and should-be's.
Vertical vein dissections
like an artist's sketch.
Blood curls like smoke,
like my spirit, my soul
escaping, landscaping
the water a perfect color
not of anger but release,
a freedom sleep with voices
silent.



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Grandmother Speaks...

"Grandmother Speaks" is a series of walks, perhaps concurrently, perhaps sequentially, being planned in different ecological areas (called bioregions) of what's commonly called Canada, the U.S., and Mexico. We gather and walk on a pilgrimage to Her- the wise Grandmother, the old Crone- women who have been introduced to her Mysteries of Birth, Menopause, and/or 45 winters. We gather and walk to celebrate Her in our daily lives, to improve our spiritual, physical, and mental and emotional bodies. We gather and walk to share stories with other Grandmothers along the Path and to learn about healing and survival. We gather and walk to provide a platform to speak of our Sacred Task- to consider the effects of our actions on 7 generations in the future. This is an opportunity for all Grandmothers, red, black, white and yellow, to reflect among our Selves, alone and together, and share these perspectives with a world hungry for wisdom.

If this adventure moves you in some way, please join us! Blessed Be!

P.S. Women of all ages are welcome to do support work. However, only elders may walk.

redmoonsong 202-387-2785
Grandmother Speaks
PO Box 8191
Silver Spring, MD 20907

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from the Lesbian Fat
Activist's Network Journal

by Laura Tisoncik, coordinator,
LFAN

On Monday, March 27th, 1995, the Wall Street Journal ran a front page article announcing that the Food and Drug Administration is planning to ease requirements for approval of new diet drugs.

The new requirements, described in a draft proposal, require only one year of testing for effectiveness, and don't require that the drugs actually demonstrate any health benefits from the weight loss. The FDA originally proposed stringent requirements that the drugs show effectiveness over a two year period, and demonstrate actual health benefits. In a hearing held last January, FDA officials are reported to have argued that "drugs should be good for health, not just cosmetic weight loss."

"In general, the field has not been a big success", the FDA's chief of metabolic drugs, Dr. Solomon Sobel, is reported as saying. "We wanted an approach more rigorous than in the past".

The outside advisory panel which conducted the January hearings, after hearing testimony from a number of drug company representatives and weight-loss doctors, rejected the FDA position. The new draft proposal reflects the outside advisory committee's recommendation.

The first drug likely to be considered by the FDA under the new, relaxed, guidelines would be dexfenfluramine, a compound chemically related to amphetamines and the illegal drug Ecstasy. This drug was found by Johns Hopkins researchers to cause permanent damage to serotonin receptor cells in the brains of squirrel monkeys who were fed the drug for four days. A researcher from the Environmental Protection Agency, Dr. James O'Callaghan, challenged these results, reporting that he found no evidence of permanent brain damage in his experiments- which fed the drug to mice for only one day, and which nonetheless showed that the mice maintained abnormal serotonin levels for about a month afterwards. And the President of the American Society for Clinical Nutrition, Dr. Richard Atkinson, who participated in the January hearings, is quoted as saying about the monkey tests, "What does that mean? We don't know. Is that something bad? The monkeys otherwise seemed normal."

The process of fast-tracking the diet drugs has JUST begun. It is possible for us- yes, LFAN and her friends!- to keep the drugs off the market (now wouldn't that be a satisfying accomplishment?). This is what you can do right now:

1) Apply indirect pressure to the FDA:

- Write your local newspapers. Express concern that the FDA may be rushing dangerous drugs to market under pressure from the drug companies. Describe the results of the monkey tests, and how they were dismissed out of hand. Mention that the drug first in line for approval is related to the drug Ecstasy, and that diet drugs have a history of leading to addiction. Note that the proposed protocol doesn't require that the drugs demonstrate that they lead to improved health, yet studies have shown that weight loss can lead to an increased risk of heart attack.

The purpose of writing these letters is to alert our potential allies on this issue- consumer advocates, anti-drug campaigners, those concerned with government corruption, etc. Address it to them, not to fat activists. We already know about this.

- Write your congressional representative. Express your concern about the FDA proposals. Briefly mention some of the questions raised about these drugs (pick the monkey tests, or the unknown abuse potential of the drugs, etc., depending upon what you think will get their attention). Ask your representative for more information about the matter- ask one or two specific questions that interest you about this situation. Ask him or her to inform you of when and where the hearings on the proposed protocols will take place.

The purpose of this letter is to get your representative to contact the FDA and ask questions. When congressmen call, federal agencies take notice. When you get that response, write a note warmly thanking him or her for the effort (even if you have to grit your teeth to do it...) and add any follow up questions you have. Positive feedback encourages repetition. You want your representative to call the FDA a LOT.

2) Apply direct pressure to the FDA. Write to:

Food and Drug Administration,
5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville,
MD 20857

We have many members in the New York City and the San Francisco Bay area. Regional FDA offices are located in those cities. They might make good locations for INDD protests.

3) Vent your anger to the drug pushers! This is where you can constructively apply all that simmering rage you had when writing polite thank you notes to your Republican congressman. The chairman of the panel that advised the FDA to speed up drug approval is:

Glenn Braunstein, M.D.
Director, Department of Medicine
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Professor of Medicine, UCLA 8700
Beverly Boulevard Plaza Level,
B118 Los Angeles CA 90048 (213)
855-4691



Newsnotes

NATIONAL

Gray Panther Founder Dies

Maggie Kuhn, 89, crusader against age discrimination and peace activist, has died. Kuhn helped found the Gray Panthers in 1970 after having been forced to retire from a job with the Presbyterian church at age 65. When asked in a 1989 "Fresh Air" interview why she had never married, Maggie replied "I've been very very lucky."

Frat Boys Run the World

Gov. Thomas Carper of Delaware went to meet the train of, Rep. Bob Dornan, R-Calif, a presidential candidate, wearing a wig and a dress. Carper carried a sign reading "Dornan's the one" and when the train stopped Carper called out "Hi, Bobby" in a high campy voice. Dornan drew back shocked and his aides rushed to get between the two men until someone recognized Carper.

—Catt's Claws Newsletter

Getting More Than Gas in New Jersey

Governor Christine Whitman (R) announced that her administration will honor a campaign promise to name a rest stop on Interstate 295 in Burlington County after radio-show host Howard Stern. Will the stop now also have a sign saying clearly—"Minorities and Clothed Women Not Welcome?"

—Inquirer

New Woman in Administration

President Clinton has chosen former Iowa Attorney General Bonnie Campbell to head a new Justice Department office aimed at stemming violence against women. The Violence Against Women's office was created under the 1994 crime bill that also authorized \$26 million to spend this year on rape crisis centers and abuse hotlines.

Ginger Rogers Dies

Ginger Rogers, the glamorous blonde who danced her way to stardom on the arm of legendary entertainer Fred Astaire, died at her home in southern California. She was 83 years old. Remember—Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did—but backwards in a dress and heels!

Achtenberg to Run for Mayor

Assistant HUD Secretary Roberta Achtenberg, the highest-ranking openly lesbian in the federal government is resigning at the end of April to run for mayor of San Francisco. "If I'm going to be mayor of San Francisco, I have to begin my campaign immediately." She is a former SF supervisor.

Rewarding The Religious Right

In the second 100 days, GOP leaders plan to pay their debts to the religious right, whose issues were put aside in the first 100 days to minimize controversy. These plans include: restricting abortions by denying Medicaid funding for victims of rape and incest, weakening last year's clinic protection law, and cutting funds for family planning. The GOP also plans to enact school prayer legislation requiring students to recite a prayer chosen by school authorities, and to enact school vouchers to shift tax-

payer dollars to private and parochial schools. And they plan to end all legal protections for gays and lesbians.

—Women's Leadership Network

Operation Rescue's Assets Seized

DALLAS (AP) — Officers seized furniture, computers and other office equipment from Operation Rescue's new headquarters on Wednesday under a court order obtained by Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas to satisfy a court judgment. Planned Parenthood was awarded \$1 million in punitive damages from the Dallas-based Operation Rescue and the Houston-based Rescue America over the anti-abortion groups' protests during the 1992 Republican National Convention. A jury found that Operation Rescue and two other groups conspired to hinder Planned Parenthood and nine other clinics during the convention.

Contract On Children

What Newt Gingrich's "Contract" would mean for America's children according to Marian Wright Edelman's Children's Defense Fund Action Council:

- 6.3 million children would lose school lunches;
- 5 million children would be left destitute;
- 4.8 million children would lose health care;
- 3.5 million children would lose food stamps;
- 1.6 million pregnant women would lose nutritional supplements;
- almost 200,000 children would lose Head Start;
- 193,000 blind and disabled children would lose supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Lesbian Loses Custody

RICHMOND, VA.—Sharon Bottoms lost a legal battle for custody of her son Friday when the Virginia Supreme Court ruled that her sexuality could put the child at risk of social condemnation. In a case watched closely by gay rights groups across the United States, the justices split 4-3 in overturning a lower appellate court ruling allowing Sharon Bottoms to regain custody of 3-year-old Tyler Doustou. "The mother is an unfit custodian at this time, and the child's best interests would be promoted by awarding custody to the grandmother," Justice A. Christian Compton wrote. Suzanne Goldberg of New York's Lambda Legal Defense Fund said the ruling departs from a national trend in which judges have ruled gay men and women to be competent parents. Her group supported Bottoms in a friend-of-court filing that asked justices to base their decision on historical evidence rather than on "speculation" about problems that may lie ahead for the child. But while the Virginia court said Bottoms' live-in relationship with April Wade could pose a problem for the child, justices said their ruling also took into account the woman's maturity and stability. The court said there was evidence that Bottoms has a history of moving from place to place, that she relies on the support of others and has difficulty controlling her temper. Bottoms has had limited visitation rights since a juvenile court put the child in the care of her mother in 1993 after

ruling that Bottoms was unfit for motherhood she engaged in oral sex with her lover, an act which is considered a felony in Virginia. But the decision was reversed last summer by the Virginia Court of Appeals, which said Bottoms' sexual conduct was not grounds for losing custody despite the issue of criminality.

NPR Sued for Sex Discrimination

Katie Davis, former host of the radio programs Morning Edition and Weekend All Things Considered, Thursday filed a sex discrimination suit against NPR, accusing it of failing to promote her to a permanent reporter position and not paying her the same as male reporters and hosts. Davis, who has worked with NPR since 1981, said: "It is with great sadness that I sue NPR, an organization to which I have devoted so many years and so much passion. However, NPR's discriminatory treatment of me is unfair and illegal." The network had no immediate comment.

—Inquirer

Mississippi Outlaws Slavery March 16, 1995—

Mississippi ratified the amendment to the U.S. Constitution that abolished slavery, almost 130 years after the fact. Now that slavery has been completely abolished, why would we need affirmative action?

—Catt's Claws Newsletter

More Right Wing Pizza

Rush Limbaugh, is the new spokesmodel for Pizza Hut Pizza. Rush, who during one broadcast of his TV show, derided a meeting of rural lesbians, which took place on a farm. These women, Limbaugh said, were "mating with pigs" in order to "perpetuate the species." Fortunately, "operators are standing by" at Pizza Hut's corporate offices, monitoring public response to the Limbaugh commercial. Reports are being filed on the basis of each telephone call. Register your toll-free complaint by calling 1-800-358-2222. You can also write to Pizza Hut, Consumer Affairs, 2100 Powers Ferry Road, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30339-5014.

—Media Watch

D.J. Comes Out

Industry rumors report that scriptwriters for "Roseanne" had put together an episode titled "D.J.'s Coming Out," in which the Conner's teenage son tells his parents that he is gay. In the rumored scenario, D.J. (played by Michael Fishman) develops "an unusually close friendship with a new boy at school." The script reportedly will deal with the peer harassment D.J. experiences, his father's "macho" efforts to teach him self-defense, and the young teen's eventual revelation that "I was fighting myself — fighting my feelings." While "Roseanne" producers are bracing for a homophobic backlash from the network (ABC) — the plot development is fully backed by Roseanne herself, who hopes "that D.J.'s coming out could help kids who are going through the same thing." Send encouraging feedback to Roseanne, Co-Executive Producer, "Roseanne," c/o ABC Entertainment, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90067, tel. 310-557-7777, fax

310-557-7170. Copy your correspondence to Ted Harbert, President, ABC Entertainment, at the same address; e-mail abcaudr@ccabc.com.

Leslie Feinberg Banned

MA, April 11, 1995—Bradford College President Joseph Short has created an uproar on the Massachusetts campus by banning transgendered activist Leslie Feinberg from speaking at the school's commencement. Feinberg, a lesbian who has lived and worked as a man, wrote the novel Stone Butch Blues. She was selected by a majority of the students to be the commencement speaker. Short says that Feinberg was rejected because he wasn't convinced that she was the most appropriate commencement speaker. "It is always an appropriate time for an oppressed voice to be heard," said Eric Muniz, a member of Students Daring for Diversity (SDD), a group that organized a large student sit-in last Wednesday to protest Short's decision.

—GLAAD Media Watch

Basketball Coach Tara VanDerveer, Stanford Coach, accepted the Olympic women's basketball coaching job. VanDerveer will leave her two-time national championship program for a year. She has been at Stanford ten years. In the interim, assistant coach Amy Tucker will step in. VanDerveer has a 403-113 record in 17 years of coaching.

INTERNATIONAL

Winnie Mandela Fired Again

President Nelson Mandela Friday fired his estranged wife Winnie for the second time, saying it was necessary for good government. Mandela's move came two days after Mrs. Mandela, 60, was reinstated as deputy arts, culture, science and technology minister after she launched legal action against the government over her March 27 dismissal. "After due reflection I have decided in accordance with the powers vested in me by the constitution to terminate Mrs. Winnie Mandela's appointment and to appoint Mrs. Brigitte Mabandla to the post...", Mandela said in a statement. Mrs. Mandela has been a vociferous critic of Mandela's unity government but sources in his ruling ANC said the main reason for her original sacking was her defiance of presidential orders to cancel a trip to West Africa.

—A.P.

Bosnian Serbs Charged

Bosnian Serb Dusan Tadic, the first suspect to appear before the U.N.'s Yugoslavia war crimes tribunal, Wednesday denied murdering, raping, beating and torturing Croats and Moslems in northwest Bosnia in 1992. Tadic, a 39-year-old former cafe proprietor, entered his not guilty plea in Serbo-Croat at a 25-minute preliminary hearing in a specially-built U.N. courtroom in the Hague. The indictment against Tadic for war crimes and crimes against humanity accuses him of taking part in the murder of 13 victims, including four who died in the notorious Omarska concentration camp. It also accuses him of beating and mistreating 16 victims, raping a

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Newsnotes

NEWSNOTES... cot'd from pg 9

woman identified only as "F" at Omarska and mistreating other unidentified victims. Prosecution documents show Tadic was transformed by an orgy of ethnic cleansing from a rural cafe owner who got on well with his Moslem neighbors into a ruthless and sadistic killer. Serbia and the Bosnian Serbs have refused to hand over suspects to the tribunal. But the panel has said it will issue international arrest warrants against suspects who fail to appear for trial, exposing them as fugitives from justice.

—AP.

Palestine: First Government, First Woman

Gaza City, Apr. 10 —Intissar Al-Wazir has been named the minister of social affairs in the Palestinian government. She is the first woman in this first Palestinian government. As minister of social affairs, she oversees the families of 11,000 Palestinians who have died in the conflict with Israel. "I am returning to participate in building the state and to continue the struggle for a just, comprehensive peace, which will not be complete until the Palestinian state is (fully) established," she says of her new role. The ministry is taking over welfare work from the Israeli offices that ran the West Bank for 27 years. It evolved out of an organization established by Wazir herself in Damascus in the late '60s, called the Institution for the Families of Martyrs and Prisoners, which gave money, medical care and education to widows and orphans. Wazir has a long history of participation in the independence struggle, and is a close friend of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. Asked how she felt about her return, she said, "It is a mixed feeling of joy and sadness, returning after a forced absence of over 30 years. 'I wish all those who sacrificed their lives for our return and liberation could have lived this moment with us, to see the fruit of their struggle.'"

—Women's Feature Service

Acid Attacks in Pakistan

Hundreds of women are suffering savage acid attacks in Pakistan according to Pakistani Legal Aid centre magazine "Slogan". Official figures are rare but at least 269 cases were reported in the press in just 4 months in 1992. Dr. Ibrar Baloch, a plastic surgeon at the local hospital in Multan in Southern Pakistan, says he treats on average, one case every week and only sees a fraction of the cases in the area. Many cannot afford the 7 dollars a day it costs to be admitted to hospital. Causes for the attacks vary. One woman was attacked because she was behind a decision of her family to move out of shared accommodation. The remaining family could not afford the rent on their own. Another woman was attacked by a male after her relatives had assaulted him for pestering her and her friends. Yet another was attacked by her aunt for not going along with an arranged marriage. Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has now set up all-female police stations in four Pakistan cities including Multan.

—Woman's Feature Service

Marie Curie Honored

France—The first woman in France's history to be honored for her own merit," said France's president Francois Mitterrand who ordered Marie Curie's ashes and those of her husband to be moved to France's renowned Pantheon in Paris. It houses the remains of such Frenchmen as Voltaire, Rousseau, Hugo, and Zola. On Mitterrand's order, the ashes of Marie Curie and her husband, Pierre Curie, were transferred from a small-town cemetery and carried in wood coffins into the Pantheon. The couple shared the Nobel Prize for physics in 1903, and she alone won the chemistry Nobel in 1911. Despite her greatness, Marie Curie suffered from the male chauvinism prevalent during her heyday—she was denied membership in the Academy of Sciences, which was then all-male. Her husband was invited to join which he refused to do without his wife. Mitterrand said he sought to honor the Curies as two of the greatest scientists of modern times, and also to "recognize the place that women hold in our society." Even after she won the two Nobel prizes, her laboratory was poorly equipped because the university wouldn't support a woman—and when she wanted to do more research, American women bought her a gram of radium which she could not afford to buy.

—Catt's Claws Newsletter

New Gay Magazine in Russia

The first issue of "The Mirror" has just been published by the Russian Lesbian and Gay Library. According to Viktor Oboin, Editor-in-Chief, the new bulletin was published despite "modest means" and "social conditions in Russia that still require us to be discreet in our work." "The Mirror" includes a chronicle of events and a review of lesbian/gay content in Russian news media. The Library continues to seek "foreign language materials of all types, which we translate and include in our collection." Send all correspondence to Library, P.O. Box 9, Moscow, Russia 125047.

—Media Watch



The men's movement going strong... Only five men showed up for the International Men's Day convention in Toronto on February 7, despite there having been over 100 hotel rooms reserved, press releases prepared, and speeches written for the event. Even the organizer of the convention, Tom Oaster, couldn't bring himself to stay for the entire event, cutting out early due to a "medical emergency." (Oaster, a professor of education at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, is being charged with sexual harassment by several current and former female students. He has denied the allegations.) —from Ms. Magazine

from Gay and Lesbian Anti-Defamation League file

Subj: April and Sharon Speakout...
From: Steph nclr

Folks:

I just got off of the phone with April Wade. She and Sharon Bottoms are having a very rough time of it. April asked me to relay the message that they are particularly upset with the way that many people have said, in essence, "well, this can't be JUST a lesbian rights issue, if the court says they are unfit, they must be unfit." The classism in the community speaks to the willingness of many lesbian and gay men to believe that Sharon and April, two young, working class lesbians are unfit.

Please, please, don't believe for a second that you will be insulated by money or anything else. This family is suffering because Sharon and April are lesbians. Pure and simple. The aspect of the court's decision on which this case rested was not, in fact, unfit, but their perception that the social stigma of being raised in a lesbian household was too great of an obstacle. Think about it. April asked me to pass on that they have not heard from the community in any great numbers since this decision was announced, and they are feeling quite isolated. The idea that they are not alone in this struggle has kept them going over the years. Please DON'T believe the press reports. Please DO send them cards, letters and well wishes. I will be visiting Sharon and April on May 9th and 10th (Sharon makes the best chicken and dumplings in the world, and their house is a warm one full of laughter and love...I always leave feeling very loved and touched by their warmth and caring. All children should be so lucky as to have parents with such big hearts.)

You may write to Sharon Bottoms and April Wade : c/o National Center for Lesbian Rights 870 Market St., Suite 570 San Francisco, CA 94102

If you have any questions regarding the Bottoms case, or your own custody struggles, NCLR can be reached at 415-392-6257. Please use our free legal services, we are committed to seeing Tyler returned and making sure that no other families suffer as April, Sharon and Tyler have. With a heavy heart, Stephanie Smith National Center for Lesbian Rights



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Subj: Messing with the wrong woman

From: Osair

— Assembled from television news reports and the front page of The St. Louis Post Dispatch (March 30, 1995).

Kelly Dobbs, six-year veteran bouncer at the popular St. Louis gay bar Magnolia's, fought off two robbers last Wednesday night just after closing time. Dobbs, who stands 6 feet and weighs more than 200 pounds, was approached by two men in ski masks, one brandishing a .45-caliber pistol. They demanded her money.

Dobbs seized one of the robbers, reversing his ski mask which temporarily blinded him. She grabbed his crotch, and he dropped the weapon. Dobbs picked up the pistol and not knowing it was unloaded, squeezed the trigger five or six times. She punched his face breaking his nose.

The robber hit her in the head and she dropped the pistol. The two men retreated to a van, and as they sped away a security guard who works at the bar arrived and fired two shots, hitting one of the men in the leg. Two police detectives chased the van and fired on it.

The chase ended when the van crashed through a wall at Bruno's Little Italy restaurant and landed in one of the three dining rooms. The impact broke the second robber's nose.

Leon W. Carter, 27, faces four felony counts. Eddie Wright, 18, faces five. Dobbs was unhurt. And, as always, you can see her smiling face nightly at the door of Magnolia's Bar, 5 South Vandeventer Avenue, St. Louis, MO.



Let them hang loose...

A new study, done by researchers Sydney Ross Singer and Soma Grismaier, suggests that there may be a causal link between bra-wearing and breast cancer. The hypothesis is that the constriction of the breast inhibits the draining of the lymph nodes, allowing toxins to build up in the tissue, ultimately increasing the likelihood of cancer. Data comparing the bra-wearing habits of women with and without breast cancer supports the hypothesis. Singer and Grismaier called a press conference in April to present their results, to which they invited groups ranging from the National Cancer Society to the National Organization for Women. Not one person bothered to attend. Coincidentally, the much awaited Wonderbra hit the stores the very next day.

—from the Valley Advocate

Announcements

Amelia's Flyers (AF) is a newly founded women's running group based in Northampton, MA. The club offers support and encouragement for any woman, regardless of sexual orientation, age, race, or religion, who is interested in running. We welcome runners of all abilities, whether being experienced, recreational, or competitive. For more info call 586-5385.

"As If It Were Yesterday," a documentary film depicting the courage of the Belgian people who were active in the resistance during the holocaust, will be shown at the B'nai Israel Temple, Prospect St., Northampton. The event is a fund-raiser for the creators of the film, Myriam Abramowicz and Esther Hoffenberg, both children of survivors of the holocaust. Myriam Abramowicz will be present before the showing. Cost is \$5.00. Saturday, June 10, 9 pm.

Getting The Basics is a training aimed at people who work in family planning facilities. However, educators, medical people, and community groups interested in basic reproductive health care are invited. June 14, 15, 16 8:30 AM to 5 PM - The Depot. Contact

Maureen L'Abbee at 413-586-2016.

The Program for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Concerns would like to announce the changing of its name to "The Stonewall Center: A Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgender Educational Resource Center". This name was chosen to honor what happened at the Stonewall Inn in 1969 as part of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered community's history.

Submissions Sought - Alyson Publications, a leader in gay and lesbian publishing, seeks personal essays from lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and intersexed people born after (or shortly before) the Stonewall Riots of 1969. Let's tell the world what it's like to inherit the older generations' legacy of relative freedom and pride- and trouble. 40 Plympton Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02118, 617-542-5679.

Tenth Anniversary Women In The Visual Arts - 1996 Exhibition (Any Medium except Video). Erector Square Gallery, New Haven, Ct. The juror is Ms. Ann Langdon, writer and gallery Manager, Very Special Arts, Washington, D.C. The slide deadline is November 15, 1995. \$15 for 3 slides. Exhibition March 6-29, 1996. For prospectus, send SASE to Women In the Visual Arts - 1996, Erector Square Gallery, 315 Peck

St., New Haven, CT 06513. (203) 865-5055.

Two Diversity Training Institutes will be offered this summer by Diversity Works, a diversity training and consulting collective. The Celebrating Diversity Institute will be offered June 5-9, and the Trainers of Trainers Institute will be offered July 1-7. Both will take place at the OMEGA Institute in Rhinebeck, N.Y. For more info call 800-862-8890 or Diversity Works at 413-256-1868.

Necessities/Necesidades, an organization for battered women and their children, is looking for volunteers to work in the following areas: Hotline, Legal Advocacy, Child Advocacy, Administration, Fund-Raising, Community Education. Actively seeking bi-lingual women (Spanish, Khmer, Sign Language, Mandarin, Russian, etc.) For more info. call 586-1125.

Sleeveless Theater announces the beginning of a new session of Comedy Improv and Acting classes taught by troupe members. Session I runs from June 6-27 and session II runs July 11-Aug. 1. For more info. please call 413-584-6211.

Attention Womyn of Color Artists- promote your work and help create Womyn of Color Land by creating and donating artwork for the fund-raising and networking efforts of Maat Dompim, Womyn of Color Land Project. For more details and info call (703) 992-0248 or write Maat Dompim, Auto Road, Auto WV 24917.

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Maat Dompim

Maat Dompim is a non-profit Womyn of Color Retreat and Conference Center in the process of becoming. The project is named Maat Dompim because Maat is the name of the ancient African Goddess who represents balance, truth, and justice; and Dompim means "a place in the bush where the voice of the Goddess is heard." It is to be a rural complex that will be a sage, harmonious, contemplative environment for research, study, meditation and ritual, as well as workshops, conferences, seminars and presentations.

Maat Dompim will be an environment that focuses on the needs of Womyn of Color. It will be a setting for Womyn of Color to safely explore, revive, perpetuate and share our respective traditional cultural values and perspectives in a place that is free from Eurocentrism and racism. However, Maat Dompim is also open to, and available for any individuals or groups who are 1) actively anti-racist and 2) working for positive social change.

Maat Dompim will include several areas of focus:

- Retreat Space
- Small Conference Center
- Ecology Center
- Accessibility
- Apprenticeship Programs
- Institute of Ancient African Herstory
- Visitors and Guests

Maat Dompim will help fill many needs of our nascent WomynNation. It will be a safe place to explore our values, politics and relationships.

Being a community-based organization means that we get our support directly from the community. To make this Womyn of Color Land Project a reality we need donations for land search expenses, supplementary down payment, mortgage payments, African Herstory Library, building fund, operating costs, xeroxing, and postage.

Also need grant writers, fundraisers, mailing lists, FAX machine, Mac LC compatible laser printer, additional memory for Mac LC, and allies and advocates.

And, of course, we need suitable land for Maat Dompim: 80-150 affordable acres in a friendly, preferably Appalachian area that is within 1 to 2 hours of a city with substantial multi-racial and progressive womyn's population.

For additional information, to make a donation, or to be put on our mailing list, please contact

MAAT DOMPIM, THE WOMYN OF COLOR PROJECT
Auto Road
Auto, WV 24917
(703) 992-0248 voice mail.

THANK YOU! LUNARIA

for your eight years of service to our community.

We say "Good-bye" to Rose Maloof and Madeline Zadik longtime owners of our feminist bookstore.

And say "Hello" to THIRD WAVE, feminist booksellers with
Deb Coon, Kara Spezeski, Sal Colbert and Lis Brook.

Please come to the

TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP PARTY

Saturday, June 10 • 10 am. to 5 pm.
Refreshments / Fun / Old and New Friends

Day of the Party:

Day of the Party:

• 20% discount on all books • Feminist Door Prizes • Entertainment

JUNE EVENTS

THIRD WAVE bookstore will be closed for inventory from May 30th until June 9th. See you at the party.

June 16- Open Mike- In Celebration of Women

Bring any Song, Poem, Story or Tap Dance to share that celebrates the life of women. Fun, Fun..Fun. Women only. 7 p.m.

June 24- Transcend Your Automatic 35mm Camera

First Session of a 3-part workshop with Cristina Sosa. Cristina was a professional photographer for six years, studied at the Germaine School of Photography in NYC and participated in workshops with the photographers of Life Magazine. Learn more about composition and the use of your manual override. Women only. 7 p.m.

June 30- Check out the Calendar Fundraiser!

And Plan Ahead!!

July 7 - Sarah Dreher reads from her sixth Stoner McTavish Mystery, *Bad Company* about lust, betrayal and psychosis in a women's theatre company. (Do we think this comes from Dreher's personal experience?) Women only. 7 p.m.

July 23- Justina and Joyce. If you missed them at the Iron Horse or if you just want more, come hear Justina and Joyce sing from their new release *Rhythm, Rhymes, and Tides*. Women only. Time TBA.

THIRD WAVE FEMINIST BOOKSELLERS
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Fri 10 - 6
Sat 10 - 5
Sun Noon - 5

LOGO SEARCH: We need your help to develop a logo for our store name "THIRD WAVE". We are looking for a women to capture the spirit of our store and community. Bring your entry to the store by July 1, 1995.

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Calendar

June 2-3: Womanshelter/Companeras and the Domestic Violence Project of Western Massachusetts Legal Services are sponsoring a two evening event at Trumpets at the Comfort Inn in Chicopee on Memorial Ave. 8PM till closing, dancing with music from the 40's to the 70's. Door donation of \$3.00 per person will be donated entirely to these two programs. Also raffle. Call Kathleen at 538-9717 for more info.

June 3: Lisa McCormick at Brattleboro Union High School in Brattleboro, VT. With Lucie Blue Tremblay.

June 3: Patricia Lewis Sackrey is having a writing retreat. Fee is \$50 for members of Amherst Writers and Artists, \$70 for others. Call 413-527-5819 for more info.

June 10: Julia Burrough will be at the Green River Cafe (773-3312)

June 10: Transfer of Ownership party at Lunaria (now Third Wave). 10 AM to 5PM. Come "say goodbye" to Rose Maloof and Madelaine Zadic, longtime owners of our Feminist bookstore and say "hello" to Third Wave, Feminist booksellers with Deb Coon, Kara Spezeski, Sal Colbert and Lis Brook. Refreshments and fun.

June 16: Open Mike- in celebration of women. Bring any Song, Poem, Story or Tap Dance to share that celebrates the life of women. Women only. 7 PM. Third Wave

June 17: Free introductory self defense workshops for women and girls, ages twelve and up. Saturday, 2-5pm, June 17. Please preregister. Call 413-527-0101 for more info.

June 21: Sally Bellerose will read from her newly released book, "Sex Crimes". This is a collection of poetry, exploring the strength of lesbian sexuality and the forces that sometimes attempt to keep us from our desires. Northampton Center for the Arts, 7PM, \$3-5 donation, wheelchair accessible.

June 24: Lisa McCormick at the Black Sheep in Amherst.

June 24: Transcend Your Automatic 35mm Camera. First session of a three part workshop with Cristina Sosa. Women only, 7PM. Third Wave.

June 30: Check out the Calendar fundraiser at Third Wave.

June 30: Cathy Winter at Green River Cafe.

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<u>Mondays</u>	6:30 - 7:30 7:30 - 10:30 10:30 - 1:00	Country Western Dance Lessons DJ Music by tape
<u>Tuesdays</u>	6:30 - 7:30 7:30 - 10:00 10:00 - 1:00	Swing Dance Lessons DJ Boys Night Out
<u>Wednesdays</u>	6:30 - 9:00 9:00 - 1:00	Weekly pool tournament, sign up by 6:30 lots of womyn! New DJ! John Alex
<u>Thursdays</u>	7:00	Doubles pool league
<u>Fridays</u>		18+ DJ Betsy
<u>Saturdays</u>		21+ DJ Steven

LIVE WOMYNS ENTERTAINMENT

June 3	Marlissa Carrion	7 - 9pm	\$5
June 10	Annie Wens + Company	7 - 9pm	\$5
June 17	TBA		
June 24	Sheryl Skye	7 - 9pm	\$5



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Vermont singer/songwriter, Lisa McCormick has been selected to showcase at the Songwriter's Hall of Fame Songwriter Showcase sponsored by the National Academy of Popular Music. The event, which highlights the work of eight chosen writers, takes place Tuesday, June 6, at Tramp's in New York City. Lisa will give a live performance of two songs from her latest recording.

Lisa McCormick is gaining increasing notoriety for her alternative rock/folk songwriting and performance. In addition to her own performances, she has opened for numerous national artists including Aimee Mann and Ani DiFranco.

Upcoming performances include The Black Sheep Cafe (Amherst, MA, June 24), Brattleboro Union High School (Brattleboro, VT, June 3 with Lucie Blue Tremblay), The Turning Point (Piermont, NY, June 1 with Jonathan Edwards).



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